

# THE American Freedman.

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[No. 3.

## The American Freedman's Union Commission, 30 Vesey Street, New-York City.

"The object of this Commission is the relief, education, and elevation of the Freedmen of the United States, and to aid and co-operate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition upon the basis of industry, education, freedom, and Christian morality. No school or depot of supplies shall be maintained from the benefits of which any shall be excluded because of color."—ART. II. CONSTITUTION.

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### THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN.

30 VESSEY STREET, N. Y. CITY.

THIS journal is published as the central organ of the Freedman's Union Commission, for the benefit of the Branches and the information of all who are interested in the work of education in the South.

Copies will be furnished *without charge* to any Branch of the Commission for distribution in connection with their organs or for such other use as may best subserve the interests of their work. Communications should be addressed to the General Secretary, Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT, 30 Vesey Street, New York City.

### T E R M S .

Advertisements, one insertion, at the rate of \$30 per page for ordinary inside pages; but for an inside page, opposite general reading matter, or for the outside—last—page of this journal the price is \$40; payable, in all cases, as soon as the journal is published.

One copy of THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN, to a regular subscriber, one year, twelve numbers, one dollar.

Any person contributing five dollars per annum to the cause, to any Branch of this Commission, is entitled to receive one copy of this journal free. Single copies, 15 cents. Copies for advertisers, 10 cents each.

## The American Freedman.

### THE NEGRO QUESTION, AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES.

By J. H. SERMENT.

Meeting of the 29th of March, 1866, and Report of the Genevese Freedman's Aid Committee, pp. 156. Geneva, Switzerland.

We have often had occasion to express our obligations to our fellow-republicans of Switzerland for the moral and material aid which they have constantly extended to us in the prosecution of our great work, and we beg now, though somewhat tardily, to add our hearty thanks to Mr. Serment, President of the Genevese Committee, for his Paper on the Negro Question and the Reconstruction of the South, which is one of the very best contributions to the history of the Freedman's Aid movement which has yet appeared.

Beginning with the formation of the first Societies organized in 1861, for the relief and education of the freedmen, he gives a succinct, and, also, well-digested statement of the action of the Societies, and of the Government, as well as of the condition of the freed people and the temper of the South, up to the latter part of 1866. Well and faithfully has he performed what was evidently a labor of love, and nowhere else have we seen, in so compact a form, so clear an exhibit as is here presented.

The report of the meeting of the Committee, and of the speeches made by Messrs. Bungener, Carteret, Merle d'Aubigné, E. Naville, de Gasparin, and the Rabbi Wertheimer, adds to the interest of the publication, which also contains the text of the address sent to Congress by the Committee in April, 1866, a translation of which appeared at the time, and elicited many expressions of grateful appreciation.

We have for distribution several copies of the above in French, which we will gladly send to applicants.

### INTEMPERANCE AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

We give below, a letter soon to be published by Gen. Howard. Greatly as all must regret the twofold necessity for such an organization, in the dangers from the vice of intemperance, and in the prejudice which renders necessary a distinct Society, all will heartily agree in commanding alike the object to be attained, and the well selected name which has been chosen :

#### CIRCULAR LETTER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, }  
AND ABANDONED LANDS,

WASHINGTON, May 15th, 1867.

"I have information from Virginia and South Carolina that intemperance among the freedmen is on the increase. Already a movement is on foot in this city, having in view a thorough organization, so as to enable the colored people to exert all the power possible to prevent the evil in question.

"I find that 'the Sons of Temperance' in their Grand Divisions, retain the old bigotry, and decline to extend their Order to save men of dark skins from drunkenness, except it be done upon condition that there shall be complete and enforced separation.

"I therefore hope that Officers and Agents of this Bureau, and the Agents of the different benevolent associations working for the elevation of the colored people, will take immediate measures to organize associations of colored people, never excluding the whites, under the name of 'The Lincoln Temperance Society.' There is great appropriateness in the name, from the well known character of Mr. Lincoln, and the love the freedmen bear him.

"Please see to it that Officers or Agents of this Bureau, who may be intemperate men, be immediately reported to this office."

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) O. O. HOWARD,  
*Major-General and Commissioner.*

**IMPORTANT APPEAL FROM THE  
NEW YORK BRANCH.**

NEW YORK, May 15th, 1867.

TO THE AUXILIARY SOCIETIES IN THE COUNTIES OF ONTARIO, OSWEGO, CHAUTAUQUE, CATTARAUGUS, AND HERKIMER :

We beg to call your special attention to the fact that we are attempting to organize a joint action among the Societies in each of the above named Counties, in order, that when one Society finds it impossible to support a teacher alone, two, three, or four others may be united with it, to raise the necessary five hundred dollars. In

ONTARIO COUNTY

we have twenty-six Auxiliaries, six of which we hope will support four teachers, and if the remaining twenty will do their best, and raise at least one hundred dollars each, we shall be able to send four more from the county.

Towards this latter fund we have already received \$142 88, which is in Bank, and bears six per cent. interest. In

OSWEGO COUNTY,

which already supports three teachers, we have ten Societies, and \$157 67 towards a county fund.

CHAUTAUQUE COUNTY

has thirty-four Societies, and \$64 05 for next year.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

has twenty-two Societies, and \$42 95 in our hands.

HERKIMER COUNTY

has fourteen Societies, and \$37 79 in our hands.

It is scarcely necessary to say that this appeal, though addressed to special Counties, is intended for all ; we mention them by name, merely because the work for next year has already been begun there, as we trust it will soon be in the rest, many of which have done so well this year through single Societies. We want all of the latter to keep on in their good work, and send us back their teachers in October first ; but we want besides to have one new teacher for every five of the smaller Societies, who can raise no more than \$100 each.

It is very important that we should have sometime before October first, at least one

quarter's salary for every teacher to be supported during the year, in order that our schools may be opened with the school year, and that both our teachers and scholars may not be left in idleness, for fear that no support can be found for the former.

Respectfully,

ELLEN COLLINS, *Chairman.*

E. A. SAMPSON,

J. S. LOWELL,

S. M. HITCHCOCK,

F. L. RUSSELL,

ELLEN SHAW,

*Committee on Correspondence  
and Organization.*

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the New York Branch Freedman's Union Commission has been issued in pamphlet form, and is a most instructive and valuable publication. It is made up chiefly of the Annual Reports of the several Standing Committees, and thus covers the whole ground of the Society's operations. These reports are preceded by a chapter of general statements and reflections, from which we extract the following :

" It will be noticed that our movement, which was at first largely one of physical relief, has passed through that stage of its existence, and is fast becoming an educational enterprise, pure and simple. While it still provides, as necessity may require, for the destitute and suffering, its main energies are directed to the moral and intellectual improvement of the people, and that with a view to the social and civil reorganization of the community in which they dwell, and of which they are a part.

" As yet the direct benefits of our educational operations are confined almost exclusively to the blacks. The whites accept the better regulated and more valuable industry, and the improved social order, which come to them as the result of our efforts, but beyond this they decline to avail themselves of our proffered benefits. Though our schools are free—open alike to all classes, few but blacks have thus far consented to enter them.

" This state of things cannot last always ; nor can it, indeed, endure long. With the disappearance of slavery must disappear all the local laws and social usages which have grown out of slavery ; and this disappearance must be rapid. Radical changes in national law must be followed without

delay by corresponding changes in personal feeling and party policy. Wise men will interpret the future and provide for it, not in the light of old prejudices, but in that of new principles. The American Freedman's Union Commission did wisely in refusing to recognize in their basis of operations any distinction of complexion or caste. Class legislation as toward the negro, whether in political or humanitarian administration, has had its day. It will not be long till even the name *Freedman* will be practically expunged from our vocabulary.

"Six months ago the Southern people were saying 'We will never acknowledge the equality of the black man with the white ; we will not vote at the same polls with him ; we will not ride in the street cars with him ; we will not sit on a court jury with him ; we will not acknowledge or address him as 'a fellow citizen.' Yet now they do all of these things, and some of them with a grace so easy as to make it seem like the result of custom.

"When, therefore, the Southern whites declare that their children shall never go to school under the same roof with the blacks, their assertions must be taken with many grains of allowance. People who speak from passion and prejudice are not to be taken at their word ; especially when not only reason and interest, but the necessities of the case, are against them. The Southern people have entered upon a new order of things, and they will finally accept, whether they know it or not, whatever the exigencies of their altered condition may demand. One of the things which it certainly will demand will be the common school. The Freedman's Commission has only anticipated the policy which future legislatures will pursue when this demand comes to be acted upon. The word *white*, North and South, is to disappear from legislative enactment."

The reader who would be fully informed in regard to the educational work now going on at the South, should bear in mind that the Association which is here reporting is only one of a number of similar Associations engaged in the same enterprise. This is the New York Branch of the American Freedman's Union Commission, and is only coördinate with the New England, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and other Branches, with which it is affiliated.

We would advise our readers and all others who desire information on the most important subject now before the American people, to procure and read for themselves a copy of this most valuable document.

#### PARIS ANTI-SLAVERY CONFERENCE.

THIS projected international assembly, which was to be held in the third week of June, has been postponed till the fourth week of August. The following is, with some curtailment, a copy of a circular which has been sent to leading anti-slavery men in both hemispheres :

27 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C., LONDON,

5th April, 1867.

DEAR SIR :—The Committees of the *British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society* and the *Spanish Abolitionist Society* (*La Sociedad Abolicionista Espanola*), have agreed to a suggestion made by the *Comte Francais d'Emancipation*, to hold in Paris, during the Great International Exhibition, a Conference of the friends of the Anti-Slavery cause.

The Conference will be held on Monday, the 26th, and Tuesday, the 27th of August next, and will probably assemble in the *Salle Herz*, Rue de la Victoire, Paris, the use of which has been conditionally retained for the occasion.

It is proposed that this Conference should comprise representatives from Brazil, England and the English Colonies, France and the French Colonies, Holland and the Dutch Colonies, Hayti and St. Domingo, the African Republic of Liberia, Portugal, Spain and the Spanish Antilles, Venezuela, and the United States of America. Its immediate object is to take cognizance of the actual state of the Anti-Slavery question in these countries, and to consider what further means may be adopted to promote the final abolition of the Slave-trade and Slavery.

It is hoped that representatives from Chili, Peru and Mexico, and Travelers and Missionaries from Africa, may be present.

The Sub-Committees would be glad to receive an intimation of your intention to be present, or to forward any written statement or documents relating to any of the subjects referred to, it being considered of the utmost importance that as many of those who have been identified with, or who are interested in the Anti-Slavery cause, should on this occasion give their co-operation, either personally or by communication.

You are respectfully requested to send an answer as soon as possible, but not later than the 1st of August.

On behalf of the Committees of these Societies,

We have the honor to be, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM ALLEN,  
JOSEPH COOPER,  
JAS. WM. MASSIE, D.D., LL.D.,  
HENRY STERRY,

*Sub-Committee on behalf of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.*

L. E. CHAMEROVZOW, *Secretary.*  
JULIO L. DE VIZCARRONDE,

*Secretary of the Spanish Abolitionist Society.*

EDOUARD LABOULAYE,  
*Membre de l'Institut ; Presidente of the Comte Francais d'Emancipation.*

AUGUSTIN COCHIN, *Membre de l'Institut ; Eugene YUNG, of the Journal des Debats—Honorary Secretaries.*

Appended to the circular are an "Outline of Programme," and "Regulations." The former is as follows :

Section First, *The Slave Trade.*

Section Second, *Slavery.*

Section Third, *{The Results of Emancipation.*

#### I. THE SLAVE TRADE.

The papers under this section will embrace statistics and particulars relating to the Trans-Atlantic African Slave-trade, to the internal Slave-trade in Africa, and the Coast-wise traffic in Brazil; also statistics concerning the Chinese and Indian Coolie traffic, and the French *engagi* system.

#### II. SLAVERY.

Under this section, the present position of the question will be discussed, with especial relation to the emancipation of the slaves in Brazil, in the Portuguese Transmarine Possessions, and the Spanish Antilles.

#### III. THE RESULTS OF EMANCIPATION.

Under this head, it is intended to present papers submitting the results of emancipation in the English, French, and Dutch Colonies, and the latest information relating to the treatment, condition, and prospects of the Freedmen in the United States of America.

By this it will be seen that the "results of Emancipation," as well as the evils of Slavery, are to claim the attention of the Conference. Whichever shall be the topic, the delegates appointed by the American Freedman's Commission will be fully competent to discuss it. Messrs. William Cullen Bryant, of New-York, Charles G. Hammond, of Chicago, and William Lloyd Garrison, of Boston. The last named sailed for England, *en route* to Paris, in the *Cuba*, which left Boston on the 8th ultimo. Three of Mr. Garrison's children are now in Paris—a son, daughter, and son-in-law—and he will spend with them the two or three months intervening between this time and that of the Conference.

Fellow-passengers with Mr. Garrison; on board the *Cuba*; were George Thompson, the eloquent and veteran champion of Freedom, and Bishop Daniel A. Payne, the well-known and highly esteemed head of the Wilberforce (Xenia, Ohio,) University. The former goes to rejoin, for the present, his family in London, the latter to seek aid for the Institution over which he presides; both will attend the Paris Conference, and testify to the evils of Slavery and blessings of Freedom, as manifested in this country under their own observation.

#### HENRY WARD BEECHER ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON SCHOOL IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

We find in the *Examiner and Chronicle*, of May 2d, a full report of a sermon preached by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, in Plymouth Church, April 14th, 1867, on behalf of the American Freedman's Union Commission. At its close a collection was taken for the Society, amounting to \$2,317. We give considerable space to extracts from this sermon, because it gives with peculiar power the argument for our peculiar work—the establishment of the COMMON SCHOOL.

#### EDUCATION DEFINED.

"Education usually conveys merely the notion of intelligence; but when I use this term, I mean the training of the whole manhood, full bodily training, right affectional and moral training, and, as the means common to them all, right intellectual training. Education is not simply learning to read and write. That is the gate which leads to education. It is the indispensable means of popular education. But education means the development of all the faculties that God put into man, and the bringing them to their highest state of power, and to their most perfect state of co-operation. In the generic term *education*, is included the education of the body—physical education; the education of the emotions—domestic education; the education of the soul—religious education; and the education of the understanding—intellectual education.

#### THE MEANS OF EDUCATION.

"The means of this education are, the family, the church, the school and the shop—or, rather, work in all its varieties. These things are not merely incidental. In the providence of God, in the divine economy, men are strong, I have said, by that which was inherent in them; and the means of developing these things are the family, the church, the school, and the great workshop. And these are not harbors of ease, places of refuge or of joy: they are schools and schoolmasters. Although I shall speak of but one of them especially this morning, yet I recognize them all as co-factors, co-ordinate in their work, and tending to produce the same result—namely, the development of a true manhood in men.

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON SCHOOL.

"There is in our peculiar circumstances eminent need of pushing all these, and that, too, more than at any other period of our history. But there are certain great reasons why in our condition, we should make much of and push with special zeal the common school, which is that means which enables men to be educated, which unseals their eyes, and opens their faculties, and gives them the liberty to think and to acquire.

"This is chiefly valuable as putting the whole population in possession of the means of intelligence. To read and write is not much; a pair of eyes is not much; but the amount of a man's seeing is a great deal in his lifetime; and the intelligence which is gathered by reading and writing is immeasurable.

#### PROMOTIVE OF MORALITY.

"Popular intelligence will tend powerfully to produce and to maintain popular morality. I am aware that good men have been apt to dissuade from simple intellectual education, inasmuch as it has been said that it afforded the instruments for a man's passions better to work with, and that an educated man who was not a good man was far worse than if he were not educated. It is very true that individuals are not good in proportion to their absolute knowledge; but in regard to communities it is true that they are apt to be moral in proportion as they are intelligent. And contrary examples, drawn from classes in any particular nation, are fallacious. It is said that the educated classes in France were the most dangerous classes. Their good or evil I think is not quite matter that is settled. There is many a thing which seems to be disastrous at the time, but which history shows to be eminently excellent and beneficial. At any rate, virtue is in accordance with man's nature individually and in society; and if the whole of the community are intelligent, it is more probable that they will heed those things that are in accordance with their nature, than if they are left in a state of ignorance. Privilege in the hands of a few we know corrupts them—I mean *political* privilege; but I think it is much so in respect to intellectual elements. If a few in any community are educated, it does not follow that they will stand as high in morals as they would if the whole community were educated. The law that acts in individuals, and still more in select classes, does not hold good in regard to the whole community from top to bottom, because there are counteracting influences that come in, in the case of the entire community, that do not in the case of classes or separate individuals.

"Intelligence, then, is one of the conditions of morality. I do not believe in ignorant morality. I do not think that ignorance in a people is compatible with the highest morality. I do not call torpidity morality. Then stones are moral, because stones never get drunk. Then trees are moral, because they never censure, or fight, or quarrel. It may be that men are sometimes so ignorant as not to know enough to be as bad as some educated men are; but morality is a voluntary thing, it is an election of that which is good, better or best; and no community can attain to a morality that carries any great stability and value in it, except it be a morality based on intelligence.

#### THE NECESSARY ACCOMPANIMENT OF SUFFRAGE.

"Without education, without common intelligence, universal suffrage can be nothing but mischievous to us. It is turning loose

upon us men without thought, men moved more by passions, by animal influences, than by reason. I would not on that account withhold it; but I hold that it is a partial education that tends merely to give men greater familiarity with things and customs and ideas. And if we give universal suffrage, it ought to be with the understanding that we will also provide for universal education. As we frequently see little martin-boxes on houses, so let me see ballot-boxes on school-houses, and I shall have no concern. The ballot-box with a school-house under it, is safe, I do not care who puts the vote in; and a ballot-box without a school-house under it, cannot be safe. We have inaugurated suffrage in other nations, and we shall not turn back from it ourselves. It is our destiny in future history. All that remains is to make it safe. And that is to be done by education, by the common school; and nothing else will do it. It is of no use to distrust men. It is of no use for men to begin to mourn, and cry, and talk about 'disturbers,' 'revolutionists,' or 'radicals.' That is no way to remedy an evil. There are many dismal-faced prophets of mischief, who are perpetually mourning over this, that, and the other infelicity; but he that believes in the advent of Jesus for the salvation of the world; he that believes God put divinity into man, and that man, once breathed upon by the power of the Holy Ghost is organized so as to be competent to self-government, and to all government—he, in other words, that has faith in God, and faith in man, will not find anything to discourage him. I am not discouraged. I see dark days; but I have confidence that the great work to be done will be accomplished. And I do not anticipate that there will be classes. I believe that all class-feeling will speedily vanish in the presence of faith in God and man. That will overthrow all distinctions. Throw wide open the ports, I say, and bid the nations welcome here. Throw wide open the prison-doors, and bid the slave come forth. And meet him with full enfranchisement into civil liberty!

#### THE COMMON SCHOOL THE PECULIAR WANT OF OUR TIMES.

"It is common-school education, it seems to me, that is the peculiar gospel of to-day. Not that I think that we are not to preach any other gospel. The family still exists, and must be under the care and ministration of the moral teacher. The individual yet exists, with passions that are to be subdued by reason and conscience. Every soul has its sorrow still, and the cross is yet to be the symbol, and to guide men. 'These things ought ye to have done, but not to have left the other undone.' But while we carry on the work of the church and of the household as much as ever before, and more than ever before, just now we are to do a vast deal more for schools than ever before.

#### A BOND OF UNION.

"Common intelligence is the natural remedy in our time and in this nation for the various dangers that are intensified on every side of

us. Our vast territory, and the diversity of our interests and populations, have led many men to suppose that we could not long remain together in one great republican empire. If we are isolated, from physical causes or moral apathy—for prejudices are like mountain ranges, and they are broader than rivers and less passable—their repulsions will grow up, and there may be oceanic and interval empires on this continent; but if vital thinking every day pervades the nation, if all classes are alike intelligent, if East, West, North and South, by the surprising power of the press and the telegraph, men are thinking of the same news and the same questions, there is no more difficulty, with the improved modern implements of civilization, in holding together a continent, than once there was in holding together a little island no bigger than our fatherland. It used to be further from the North Sea to the Irish Channel than now it is from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, because we do not measure by leagues, but by time; and electricity has destroyed that.

#### THE PREREQUISITE TO THE PRESS.

"Common schools create that kind of popular intelligence which will make all this vast population that is to come up between these two oceans unitary. That is, they will be conscious of the same interests, the same curiosities and the same zeal, about the same things, and at the same time. That which in the morning is news in New York, is spread abroad by the telegraph, and long before noon every State in the Union stands as if it were New York. And the newspaper, it never grows tired. It never wears spectacles. It never grows old. It is renewed every morning, and is fresh every moment. It goes everywhere. It penetrates the forest, the mine, the very shanty of the furthest settler. It is in the shop, and on the ship. It is among the most laborious men in the city and in the country. The drayman has it; the collier has it; the farmer has it. All classes read the newspapers. There are so many of them in competition that they swarm in every department of life. They look to us, as we gaze upon them, simply as enterprises; but, in point of fact, they are the instruments which God is employing to unitize the thoughts and feelings of the vastest nation that ever held a common population. And it is unity of thought and feeling that is going to be more than latitudes and longitudes, and more than constitutions, in keeping the nation together. If there were not the hope that by common intelligence, and common interests, and reciprocal benefits, the various sections of the nation would be cemented together, we should expect in the future to see scores of warring republics, or warring monarchies.

"Now, it is the common schools that are to make this union possible, by creating the capacity to read, and the desire to read.

#### THE GLORY OF EMANCIPATION.

"Without the common school, without a degree of education which shall make men intelligent, and put them within the reach of

papers and books, and such things as minister to intelligence—without these, emancipation is a misfortune. The most glorious event of our history is not the landing upon Plymouth Rock, nor is it the Declaration of Independence, which our fathers issued and then stoutly and victoriously defended: it is the emancipation of four millions of men by the act of the nation, and with the full determination that they should not merely become no longer chattels, but that they should become men. This is the most glorious act thus far in the history of this nation. No man can measure it, nor enough extol it, nor in any wise become extravagant in terms and epithets in his attempts to describe it.

#### BUT EMANCIPATION WITHOUT EDUCATION, NO BLESSING.

"Yet, emancipation without education is a misfortune. Unless they have light to guide themselves by the way, what are they that come forth, in the midst of their strong and proud and avaricious neighbors, but helpless objects of imposition, and the prey to various conflicts and competition? Emancipation, beginning exteriorly, must strike in; and there, where we are made strong, must they be made strong. And for this nation to have brought these creatures out from under the control that held them in some respects, and then to leave them to themselves without that self-control which comes only through education, would be an act of supreme cruelty. And I hold that this nation is as much bound to educate as it was to emancipate. I hold that the work of emancipation is but just begun, and that we have not given the Freedmen the means of maintaining their liberty till we have given them the same means which we have for maintaining our liberty.

"In the passage which I read to you this morning, our Master went to the grave and called Lazarus forth with that voice which death must needs hear, and he came forth bound hand and foot, and his head covered with a napkin. Had our Saviour then turned and left him, smothering and dark, with all the bandages bound round him, and with no use of his hands and feet, of what avail would resurrection have been to him? Now, we have commanded four millions of men to come forth; and they have come forth, but their hands are untaught and tied, as it were, by long bondage and narrowing industries, and their feet are not accustomed to walking except within the limited rounds of the plantation; and we are to unbind their hands and set loose their feet. And more than that, we are to take the word of the Saviour as having been spoken of them. He said, 'Loose him, and let him go.' And the voice that comes to us to-day in regard to all these creatures that have been brought forth out of civil bondage into a kind of civil liberty, is 'Loose the napkin around about their heads—educate them.'

#### HOW TO PROMOTE EDUCATION.—PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS AND COMMON SCHOOLS.

"How, then, shall this education be promoted?

"First, by churches. There is a little dispute growing up as to parochial schools and common schools. I take both. Let churches that want parochial schools have them. But parochial schools cannot do all that is to be done. They cannot take care of everything. There is not power enough in any denomination, nor in all denominations, with all their machinery and appliances, to take possession of the State and furnish schools for all that need them. Parochial schools and denominational schools are to be desired for specific purposes, but they cannot meet all the wants of education.

"Voluntary societies may also promote education, as this Society is doing for which I am about to ask a collection—the AMERICAN FREEDMAN'S UNION COMMISSION. They have sent teachers throughout the South. These schools are not exclusively, but mainly, for the blacks. They are attempting to introduce among the colored people common-school systems that have been proved successful in the North. This is an indispensable method of promoting education—and not the less so because it is transitory. Voluntary societies should occupy the field till it can be better occupied.

#### THE DUTY OF THE STATE.

"States, also, and for still greater reasons than can be urged in the state of churches or voluntary societies, should promote common school education—and by common schools I mean *free* common schools. Knowledge ought not to be bought and sold when the State ministers it, any more than air and water. The State I think is bound to see to it that the means are provided in every county and township for the education of its whole population."

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#### THE SOUTH.

REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, VIRGINIA, THE CAROLINAS, GEORGIA, FLORIDA, MISSISSIPPI, ARKANSAS, TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY.  
—INDUSTRY — EDUCATION — MORALITY—  
SOUTHERN SENTIMENT—LAW AND JUSTICE.

#### WASHINGTON, D. C.

FROM Washington we have received the following interesting letter from our superintendent, Mr. Newton. The reader will notice with interest the large attendance of enrolled pupils in these schools—in two instances 100 per cent—an indication of the eagerness of the pupils to learn; and they will also observe the fact, that the authorities depend on us to continue for another season half the teachers now in the District. We fully concur in Mr. Newton's views as to the importance of maintaining these schools in unabated power.

WASHINGTON, May 10, 1867.

REV. CRAMMOND KENEDY,

*Cor. Sec'y N. Y. Branch Com'n.*

DEAR SIR:—"The School Reports from this District for April, which are herewith forwarded to you, show, as sustained in whole or in part by your Commission, 19 day schools, 20 teachers, with an enrollment at the end of the month of 1,085 pupils, and an average attendance for the month of 941. There were also, during a part or the whole of the month, 3 night schools, with an attendance of about 150 pupils, making 1,235 pupils in all, under instruction. The night-school in M street was discontinued at the middle of April, on account of the inability of the teachers to continue this extra labor as the debilitating season approached.

"The number enrolled in the day schools was greater by 42, and the average attendance larger by 51, than reported in any preceding month. The number always present (885) was larger by 92 than ever before, and the number always punctual (234) exceeded by 33 the highest ever noted before. The per cent. of average attendance upon the whole number enrolled at the end of the month in the schools as a whole, was 86, which is 3 per cent. higher than in any previous month; while that of the graded schools in M street was 92 per cent.—two of the schools (*Miss Lord's and Miss Crane's*) reporting 100 per cent., and most of the others upwards of 90. These items are sufficient to indicate the generally flourishing condition of the school.

"Great changes usually take place in the membership of our schools during the spring months—large numbers of the older pupils leaving to engage in various employments, and new and mostly younger pupils presenting themselves. During the months of March and April, 459 pupils left, and 486 were admitted. Thus more than two-fifths are now comparatively new pupils. Nevertheless, the number in the higher branches has been more than sustained, while that of those classed as 'advanced readers,' (that is, in Second Reader and higher books) has but slightly fallen off.

"The night school at M street, which is now closed for the season, was very successful and satisfactory in its results. A greater regularity and uniformity of attendance was secured than has been usual in that class of schools, and the achievements of the pupils were correspondingly more marked. The number in attendance averaged about 75, mostly adults, and, almost without exception, thoroughly in earnest to learn. At the close, a large proportion of them were able to read intelligently in simple lessons, and the remainder had obtained such a start on the road to learning that with fair perseverance they will be able in a short time to reach the chief goal of their ambition—the ability to read the Bible for themselves. The instruction in this school was given chiefly by the teachers of the day schools at the same place, who served on alternate evenings, with the exception of Mrs. Hart and Miss Abby S. Simmons, who taught each evening, and of Miss H. E. Simmon,

whose state of health did not permit her to engage in this service. Valuable aid was also received from Messrs. J. B. Johnson, C. W. Corey, E. B. Cutter, —— George, and —— Goodman, gentlemen of this city, not connected with the Commission, but interested in its work, to whom, especially the first named three, many thanks are due for the assistance so constantly and kindly volunteered.

" You will observe that Miss Gilchrist's school, at Lincoln Chapel, has increased to a membership of 95. The number having become quite too large for one teacher, the Trustees of Colored Schools, at my request, engaged an assistant teacher, who entered upon her duties near the end of the month. She takes the younger and less advanced pupils, leaving to Miss G. those more advanced.

" You are doubtless awaiting, with some impatience, the decision of the Board of Trustees of Colored Schools as to the extent to which they can assume the support of the schools here for the coming year. The Chairman has as yet failed, from the pressure of other duties, to make the promised communication on the subject; but in a conversation a few days since, he verbally informed me that the Board expected to be able, in addition to erecting the school buildings, imperatively required, to sustain about half the number of teachers requisite next year; and that they should, therefore, feel obliged to ask the benevolent associations to furnish for the coming year only about half as many teachers as heretofore. He further stated that the Board would be glad to retain the services of such of the teachers now in the field as should desire to remain, and had proved acceptable.

" Presuming that the decision will be substantially as above indicated, I trust that your Branch Commission will see the way clear to furnish for another year a corps of teachers (ten in number, one-half of the entire present force now here) sufficient to continue the series of graded schools in M street, and that they may be mainly the same now employed, thus insuring the maintenance of the high reputation those schools have attained.

" It seems to me a matter of no small importance, not only to this city, but to the nation at large, and to the cause of universal education, that free schools of the very best model should be maintained from this time forth, without a peradventure, at the National Capital. Their effect upon the minds of influential persons from all quarters, and especially upon leading men who are to shape the future of the South, is beyond estimation. Your Commission has the honor, confessed on all hands, of having already done a most noble work in this direction; and, I trust, this field will not be abandoned until the continuance of the work can be intrusted to the most competent hands."

Very truly yours,

A. E. NEWTON,

*Sup't for Dist. Col.*

## VIRGINIA.

### RIPON HALL.

THE following is from the new home of our late Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Wm. Geo-Hawkins, who has lost none of his interest in the freedmen because he has pitched his tent among them. We wish him all success and happiness in the South, for whose prosperity the work, in the conduct of which he was so zealous and faithful, has done so much, and will do so much more:

RIPON HALL, VA., May 18th, 1867.

REV. C. KENNEDY:

DEAR SIR:—" In the evening school we have 32 pupils, from 14 to 45 years of age. I am assisted by Miss Guion, (teacher in the white schools), also three volunteer teachers.—We have a very interesting school, and I think, as do those that have visited both day and evening school, that they are getting along nicely, and making rapid progress. They are very attentive, and are eager to get instruction; some come a distance of five miles. I enjoy teaching them very much, and will try to do all I can to elevate them to their proper sphere. Some of the Bureau officers have been to visit my school, and seemed very much pleased, and said they were satisfied that they were doing well, and thought the school very orderly indeed. I was very much gratified at hearing them say so, for I try to do all I can, and the best that I know how to do. Capt. Massy, of Yorktown, has been here, and says there are none that need rations; but there are about fifteen children, boys and girls, from 6 to 14 years of age, that need clothing very much; if there could be some sent it would be very acceptable, and would be judiciously distributed where it is most needed. The Sunday school is conducted by Mrs. Hawkins and Miss Guion, and consists of 35 pupils, who are well supplied with books and papers.

" The school-house was not ready for me until the first of April, as you will see in the report when the school was opened. It was very damp when I did begin; but by keeping good fires we got along very well. I will send the report for May on the first of June. The whole number coming under our instruction, in day school, evening school and Sunday school, is 106."

Respectfully yours,  
E. LOUISE ROGERS.

### SOUTHERN APPLICANTS.

It is most significant and encouraging, but by no means as strange as some may imagine, that a Virginian has such views of the necessary qualifications for teaching the freedmen, and that so many native Southerners are more than willing to accept employment under our auspices. Remember that nothing but our want of unappropriated funds prevents us from greatly increasing our force of such teach-

ers—educated men, who will try as earnestly to elevate the freedman as they tried to establish the "Confederacy," and more hopefully, and, beyond a doubt, with much greater success.

EMMAUS P. O., BEDFORD Co., VA.,  
May 2d, 1867.

DEAR SIR:—"I have a number of applications for recommendations by persons who are desirous of engaging in the business of instructing the freedmen. Some of them are embarrassing. A commonly received opinion is, that anybody can instruct the negro.' I do not think so, and am not disposed to recommend any but men of character and intelligence. I regard no position more imperatively demanding talents, integrity and moral worth than the teacher of either black or white. I do not know that anything I might say in favor of an applicant would be of any value to him; but as I am likely to be troubled a good deal in this way, I write this note to you to say that in all cases that I do recommend, I shall write to the Commission concerning them at the same time. I wrote a recommendation for Mr. Richard Shelton, of this county, a few days ago, and should be glad to hear of his success, as he is a gentleman of great experience and a thorough teacher."

Very respectfully,  
J. E. LAZENBY.

In a second letter of the same date, Mr. Lazenby writes:

"I am gratified in being able to assure you of the continued increase and prosperity of my school. Of the 47 reported as 'always present,' about 5 are a little irregular in their attendance, and not enough so, as I regard, to warrant expulsion. A laudable interest continues to be manifested by both parents and children, and the general good behavior of all commends itself to the approval of all, even the prejudiced. This is peculiarly gratifying to me, and I am led to believe that a very favorable impression is being made. The greater portion of my school will soon be sufficiently familiar with the elementary or syllabic formation of words to consolidate in much more enlarged classes—creating a new interest, and allowing a better margin of time to devote to each. Several teachers of my acquaintance have called in to witness the novelty during the month, and express themselves satisfied that 'negroes can be taught.' The system is creating a very general feeling in favor of public schools, and the prospect is now fair that our land will soon be blessed with a general system of public instruction. Wishing the Commission continued success in their praiseworthy efforts."

#### NORTH CAROLINA.

##### A FREEDMAN'S FAIR—SOUTHERN SYMPATHY.

Our readers will find in the enclosed letter from the Misses Philbrook, Peduzzi and Fernald, Elizabeth City, in the above named

State, a very interesting account of the interest and co-operation of the Freedmen, and in the kindness of Mayor Clark, another evidence of the increasing growth of goodwill between North and South, through the instrumentality of these schools. No mistakes could be greater than that which supposes that they excite and stimulate, and increase prejudice. They are great pacificators—overcoming both the race-prejudice between black and white, and the sectional prejudices between North and South:

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.  
April 23d, 1867.

##### REV. CRAMMOND KENNEDY,

DEAR SIR:—"We enclose a copy of one of our letters for home papers. Since last we wrote, about two months ago, our time has been fully occupied with teaching, and the other duties belonging to our vocation. Nothing of special interest occurred until last Friday evening, when the 'Fancy Fair for the benefit of aged and sick colored people,' for which we have been preparing with the assistance of Poets, friends, took place and was very successful and satisfactory. We had previously called on all the colored people who were able, to contribute according to their means, and the response was very generous.

"The Hall we occupied, is the second story of a large warehouse, owned by Mr. Wm. Clark, Mayor of Elizabeth, who was most courteous and kind, and allowed us the use of the room free of charge; had a policeman at the outer door, and kept a watchman there all the time it was in use. We are greatly indebted to him for many previous kindnesses, and on this occasion our care was much lessened by his interest and forethought. Some of the colored people dressed the Hall very beautifully with wreaths and festoons of holly, cedar and yellow jasmine, and flags from the Revenue Cutter 'Naugatuck,' which happened into port most opportunely. One end of the room was parted off for a kitchen, by a curtain trimmed with jasmine, and the tables occupied one end and nearly one side of the remainder. The tables, three in number, were very large and handsomely covered—one with fancy articles, one with pies, cakes and candies, and the third with poultry, roast pig, ham, biscuit, coffee and lemonade. For lights, we had a chandelier for candles, and stands of candles on the beams, kerosene lamps for the tables, and colored lanterns for the stairway and lower passages. At seven, the door was opened and the Hall filled with both white and colored, until eleven, all in excellent

spirits and enjoying it highly, if we may judge from appearances. The order was perfect, our colored waiters were prompt and attentive to their business, and when the hour for closing arrived, everything was sold except a few articles on the fancy table. Mr. Clark advised us to continue the sale the next afternoon and evening, as there was to be a Mass Meeting, and we should probably have a full attendance. He announced it for us before the crowd dispersed. The next morning we purchased a quantity of cake and fruit, and with some re-arrangement, the Hall and tables looked as well as they did the previous day.

"Owing to some mistake, the announcement which was to be repeated at the meeting was omitted, and only a small number visited us in the evening; however, their purchases and admission fees more than paid for all the expenses we had incurred, so we were well satisfied. We received one hundred and fifty dollars in all, and have cleared one hundred and thirty dollars and *ten cents*. The colored people of this city had a fair before the war, of which they speak with extreme satisfaction, and this festival gave them equal pleasure. The white men, too, warmly praised it. Only one white lady attended,—the Mayor's wife, who brought the regrets of another, detained by illness, and a third sent in a fine bouquet to adorn our table.

"The white Methodists hold a fair for three days and evenings this week, as the Superior Court, now in session, attracts a great number of strangers to Elizabeth City.

"The colored preacher who was expected in early autumn when we came here, has just arrived from Connecticut, and held service for the first time last Sunday. The need of a regular minister is very great, and this one will probably suit the people, many of whom are already attached to him, as he was once settled here. Our school is in a prosperous condition, with a list of one hundred and twenty-three scholars, and an average attendance of ninety-five. The standard is not quite so high, because many of the most advanced have left us and gone into the fields, and their places are supplied by younger scholars, but the interest is the same."

ELIZABETH CITY, April 30, 1867.

#### A SCHOOL EXHIBITION.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 1st, 1867.

"We closed our day school for a short vacation on the 19th of last month, with a public exhibition in the evening. The audience was mostly colored, but with a sprinkling of white citizens. Gen. Avery, Col. Bomford, and other officers were present. Gen. Avery kindly lent us a large Fort flag, to be used in the decora-

tion of the stage, besides other smaller ones. The pupils were tastefully dressed in white, with wreaths of flowers, and as the Anglo-Saxon blood predominates in many of them, were by no means unattractive in appearance. They went through with their recitations, dialogues and declamations with great credit to themselves. Many of the pieces and songs were highly patriotic in sentiment.

"We heard that one Southerner, the Deputy Sheriff, expressed himself as surprised and delighted with the whole performance; said that it was more entertaining and *more of a novelty to him than the Circus!*

"As the church is now undergoing repairs, we have feared some interruption in our work, and have tried, without success, to procure another building. We are told that after this week we can go on with the school as usual, but anticipate considerable annoyance from the workmen."

Very respectfully,

FANNIE GRAVES,  
MAGGIE E. WALRAD,  
CARRIE M. BLOOD.

From the FENTON SCHOOL, OXFORD, N. C., we receive the following report:

Enrolled pupils: boys 44, girls 73,	
white 4—total,	117
Average attendance,	100
Always present,	65
Always punctual,	55

The teacher, Mrs. A. B. Winsor, who is supported by the Newburg, N. Y. Auxiliary, writes as follows:

"Our pupils are very regular and constant in their attendance at school, except when a heavy rain has rendered streams in the way of some impassable.

"Several from eight, ten and fifteen miles are staying in the place (we cannot call it boarding) to enjoy the school privileges; showing a degree of perseverance and cheerful endurance of hardship which speaks loudly in favor of their future characters. Some of these are young men, striving to fit themselves for teachers—the urgent call from places all around us making a class of this kind a strong necessity. One, who has attended school only ten months, and could read at first only in words of three and four letters, has already entered on his labors as one, pursuing his studies out of school hours.

"To one who has witnessed the unfolding of these minds, and their rapid advancement in knowledge, it cannot but afford great pleasure to know that their improvement is noticed and commended by those who at first thought lightly of the school. 'Well, you know more than —, who has been to school five years?' or other similar remarks, often ends an examination of one of the pupils.

"As the warm weather advances, it will be impossible to accommodate all who wish to attend, without great risk to health, on account of the smallness of our rooms."

A. B. WINSOR,  
ISAM HILL.

**SOUTH CAROLINA.**

WE are always glad to record such instances of cordial co-operation in the work of education among the Freedmen as the following letter affords us. These are prophecies of the day when the South, re-clothed with power and with the wealth of productive industry, will plant a free school in every district, and rival the North in its educational facilities.

We beg our auxiliary societies to note also one or two sentences in this letter which we have italicized. We want to commission this colored teacher, and hundreds more like him. We only need the funds. Friends of education and humanity, this is no time to relax your efforts :

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 3d, 1867.

REV. CHAMMOND KENNEDY,  
Cor. Sec. N. Y. Branch F. U. Com. {  
76 John Street, N. Y. }

"**My Dear Sir:**—The deed of land secured to you, for a site for the new school-house here, has been duly executed and recorded. Col. Low, Chief Q. M. of S. C., and Mr. R. Tomlinson, State Sup't Education, came to Columbia, April 21st, and completed the contract for the building, and gave directions to proceed with the work at once. The lumber is now being hauled to the ground. The plan of the house was changed, so as to conform to your suggestion. There are to be eight class-rooms, 40 ft. by 50 ft. each.

"I have visited most of the schools in Columbia the past month. Having been for two years engaged in this work at other points in South Carolina and Georgia, I have observed with what efficiency and success many schools are conducted, and I do not hesitate to say, that I have nowhere seen schools in better condition than those here.

"Mr. Tomlinson has requested me to visit the capital town of each district, and authorized me to promise aid from the Bureau R. F. A. L. in building school houses. It is hoped the freedmen will be induced to take immediate measures to provide school houses and establish schools. The offer of \$250 by the Bureau to the Freedmen of Lewisville, Orangeburg District, has resulted in their building a house 25 ft. by 45 ft., at a cost of more than \$600, exclusive of the land, an acre having been donated by a leading planter there for the purpose. The example of this planter had a wholesome effect upon other white citizens, and moved them to contribute money and materials to aid the enterprise. One merchant gave all the nails, about 300 lbs., and others contributed lumber. Several gave from five to ten dollars in money. The house is completed, and now two teachers are wanted. Can you appropriate \$50 per month to help them, or even \$25?

"A similar offer by the Bureau to the Freedmen of Chester, C. H., is likely to have a similar result. Mr. J. L. Harris has donated an acre of land, and many other white citizens have promised help. There will be a school house at that point in time for a school next

term, I have no doubt, and it will be a desirable field for a brace of Northern lady teachers. I hope you will make arrangements to supply them.

"I am greatly interested in a school now in operation at Blackstock, on the Charlotte R.R., in charge of Wm. Elder, A. M., graduate of South Carolina University. *Mr. Elder is an estimable gentleman, and has superior qualifications as a teacher. His school numbers nearly 200 pupils, and has become quite famous in that region. He has thus far had no support from any source, though it is currently reported among the people round about, that he gets a large salary from the Government.* I think the Commission could do no better thing than to make an appropriation of \$25 per month towards his support. The influence of such men engaging in the work of educating and elevating the freedmen is most salutary. The other day I had an application from Mr. P., proprietor of a county paper, a prominent man in the State, who lives not fifty miles from Blackstock, where Mr. Elder is teaching, for an appointment as teacher. From two to three hundred black children in his town are without school privileges. And so it is all over the State. The little we are doing is but a drop in the bucket. If I could control the application of \$1,000 per month in Western South Carolina, in addition to what is now expended, I could furnish teachers for 5,000 children who are now growing up in ignorance and vice. The calls for schools are almost innumerable and very urgent. Planters visit me almost daily, and press upon me the necessities of the blacks on the plantations. The educational awakening throughout the State has all the fervor of an old time revival of religion. Do not suffer Northern interest in this quiet work of emancipating from the chains of ignorance these benighted and dependent freedmen to diminish. Schools must be multiplied tenfold next year. If the freedmen are prosperous in their labors this season, they will have means to do something towards the support of schools; but they will need considerable assistance for some time to come. Under the most favorable circumstances they can at present make but little more than a bare subsistence, so impoverished is the country—both land and people.

"Mr. D. B. De Saussure, Columbia, S. C., is the name and address of the lawyer who gratuitously prepared the trust deed of the school lot."

Very respectfully,  
Your ob't servant,  
E. WRIGHT,  
*Ass't Sup't Education.*

**GEORGIA.**

## BUREAU REPORTS.

In Georgia, under the former system, Southern men and State officers were appointed, without compensation, to fill the subordinate positions as Bureau officers. The plan did not succeed. The Bureau in that State is now in process of re-organi-

zation, and paid officials are being appointed in their place.

From Col. C. C. Sibley's report, Asst. Commissioner for the State, we gather the following facts :

#### LABOR.

"Most of the able-bodied freedmen in the State are believed to be employed, generally at more remunerative wages than heretofore. It is feared, however, that many may be thrown out of employment by the inability of their employers to furnish supplies for carrying on farming operations.

#### SCHOOLS (FREEDMEN'S).

"During the month the number of schools was 146; teachers, 154; pupils, 10,263; being an increase over the preceding month of 8 schools, 9 teachers, and 1,200 pupils. There is a constant and healthful progress in the schools, and it is believed that next month will show a still larger increase.

"Greater efficiency on the part of agents is apparent, and a more uniform system in the transaction of business has been obtained.

#### INSPECTION OF THE STATE.

"In the month of April, Brevet Brig. Gen. F. D. Sewall commenced an inspection of Bureau and freedmen's affairs in Georgia, and is still occupied on such tour.

"The freedmen are everywhere industriously employed, and are more cheerful and confident than they were last year.

"There is a decided improvement in their treatment by employers and the people generally, since the passage of the Military Reconstruction Bill.

"In the larger towns the colored people manifest much interest in their prospective participation in the reconstruction of the State, and have very intelligent ideas of their rights.

#### SCHOOLS.

"Gen. Sewall reports that he has everywhere visited the schools, and found a great degree of interest manifested by the freedmen in the subject of education. At Atlanta the schools are in excellent condition—Gen. Sewall thinks the best he has visited in the South. At Marietta there is a school with an average attendance of 90 pupils; female colored teacher, in rather poor discipline,—though the classes appeared well—kept in a church, which is ill adapted for school purposes. There are 150 children here, who should be, and if accommodated would be, in school.

"At Rome, one school; average attendance, 100; colored male teacher; scholars have not made so much progress as is desired; poor building; a church with no windows in it; more scholars could be had if facilities were afforded.

"At Dalton, one school has been held until recently; not now in session; one at Red Clay, 22 scholars; one at Deep Valley, 30 scholars; one at Cartersville, 28 scholars. These are not *free* schools, but are supported by tuition of scholars; colored teachers; not as good as should be.

"At Athens, General Sewall remained three days. He found a good school there, which had been opened this year; three teachers; children and parents much interested; at least two hundred more scholars could be had, if accommodations and teachers could be supplied. The freed people were willing to purchase a lot, if they could have aid in building a school-house. General Sewall assured them that the Bureau would assist them.

"In Madison and Jackson Counties, General Sewall found much actual destitution. He visited the freed people at their cabins and found many cases of extreme want. They need help now, though not so many are needy as has been reported.

"There is one good school at Americus, sustained by the New England Branch of the Freedman's Union Commission; one just commenced at Cuthbert, and one at Dawson, the latter not very successful. In this part of the State, destitution is confined mainly to the old and infirm.

"Considerable destitution exists in the Counties of Heard, Coweta and Muscogee.

"The freedmen's schools, three in number were visited and found to be well sustained and conducted. They are held in church buildings, ill adapted to school purposes. More suitable buildings, and, if possible, more teachers should be supplied. One teacher has one hundred and sixty pupils, and daily applications for admission are made."

#### FLORIDA.

From the Report of Col. Sprague, Assistant Commissioner for Florida, we glean the following facts :

#### GENERAL CONDITION OF FREEDMEN.

"The general condition of the freedmen in Florida, is very satisfactory. They are industriously at work under contracts, in some instances receiving monthly wages. Large numbers are employed by their old masters, and are better contented and more useful than that class who are endeavoring to work independently. The latter, leasing or purchasing land, have not been so successful as those who have worked under the supervision of white men, and received a share of the crop. This arises from the long habit of being overlooked, and a consciousness of having some one to appeal to, when advice or direction are needed. Without this they are timid and distrustful, thereby becoming indolent and regardless of the future.

"They repose confidence in their old masters, more at the present than ever, as they see that their labor is necessary to the planters, and have no fears of violence.

"The schools and churches, on plantations and in the vicinity, add greatly to domestic comfort and contentment.

"The unfaithful employer cannot obtain the freedmen's labor. This has been fully shown last year.

"The freedmen begin to understand their rights, and utterly refuse to work for those who have ill-treated or defrauded them. The agents of the Bureau have been useful in setting up a standard of right and wrong, which has been instructive to both freedmen and planters. The good order that prevails, the demand for labor and the industry of the freed people, gives to Florida the most encouraging assurances of a successful year.

#### THE EFFECTS OF THE MILITARY BILL.

"The promulgation of the Military Bill gives confidence to all classes. The dependence upon civil law had become a farce, and the whites as well as blacks were free to admit it; Citizens and Magistrates were intimidated by ruffians and vagabonds, who have, in many instances, been employed by parties interested in the decision of questions of law. Judges have acted independently, but the sentiment of a community, county or town, frustrates the decrees of justice, and defies the execution of civil law. At present, military law gives protection and justice to all.

#### THE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE FREEDMEN.

"The new political state of the freedman is another element to ensure contentment and happiness, if properly directed. At the same time there is danger that he will be controlled in the exercise of elective franchise, by the use of kindness, fraud, or intimidation. It will take time for him to realize this privilege, and the responsibilities involved.

#### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

ST. AUGUSTINE, May 1st, 1867.

REV. C. KENNEDY.

DEAR FRIEND:—"Another month has passed, and almost all those with whose faces we had become familiar, have returned to their Northern homes.

"St. Augustine has nothing now to commend it but the luxuriant vegetation which greets the eye at every turn; and its refreshing sea-breezes.

"There are not near as many colored people here as formerly, for the reason that the families are beginning to avail themselves of the Government grants of land, and quite a number have settled in the country, and are now busily engaged

in the cultivation of sugar-cane and fruit, vegetables, &c., from which they expect to realize a comfortable living.

"I presume that you have heard that the head-quarters of the Freedman's Bureau have been removed here; we have not yet, however, seen any of its officers.

"Great complaints are made by the colored people of the Catholic schools. They say the children learn nothing but their prayers. A little girl from the Catholic school came to us to learn to read; she said her mother sent her because they did not teach her at the 'Sisters.' I went to one of their schools last week, but they had not twenty in all, and these huddled together on the floor, while three sisters stood before them, who could scarcely speak any English word but Yes! and No! catechising them from an English catechism."

\* \* \* \* \*

Yours truly,

M. M. WILLIAMS.

#### MISSISSIPPI.

The report of operations in the State of Mississippi during the months of February and March, 1867, by Brevet Brig.-Gen. A. C. Gillem, Asst. Commissioner, affords us some interesting facts :

"The freedmen have generally entered into written contracts to labor for the present year, for the most part on better terms than those received last season. When they work for stipulated wages they receive from \$15 to \$20 per month, with rations.

"In general, however, they are to have a share of the crop, one-fourth or one-third, and rations. The freedmen seem to fully understand the nature and obligations of their contracts. Frauds in the settlements for last year's labor are complained of in some sections where the crops were almost a failure.

"There is now much demand for labor, many colored men having left the State, in consequence of the violence and fraud perpetrated upon them last year. Planters have learned a salutary lesson by experience in this respect.

#### MARRIAGE RELATIONS OF FREEDMEN.

"The freedmen show much improvement in practical morality, and better appreciate the sanctity of the marital relation. Still much remains to be done before the evil effects of slavery, in this particular, shall be completely removed.

"In some districts it is reported that the freed people continue to 'take up together,' as before the war. White people scout the idea of freedmen 'getting married.'

## ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL LAW.

"In some counties the civil laws are virtually a 'dead letter,' and pistols and bowie-knives rule. Citizens would welcome a military government in exchange for the present.

"A freedmen's school at Yazoo City, taught by a colored man, was disturbed by a gang of rowdies, who surrounded the building and drove the teacher away. Complaints are sometimes made, too, of colored children being apprenticed to white persons, without consent of their parents, and in some cases freedmen have been fined for possessing fire-arms, and the arms taken from them by the civil authorities. Applications, under the Civil Rights' Bill, to have these fire-arms restored, have been made in vain. These offenders have been arrested, and held to answer the charges of the freedmen, by the military.

"But, on the whole, throughout the State a general improvement in the disposition of whites toward freed people is remarked. The prejudice against the latter is disappearing, and they are generally reported to be 'civil, quiet, sober, and industrious.'

"Complaints of unfairness in civil courts are less generally reported. The courts appear more desirous than heretofore to do justice to freedmen. The higher courts still maintain a reputation for impartiality in the adjudication of cases wherein freedmen are parties.

## HOMESTEAD ACT.

"In Meridian and Pass Christian Districts, many freedmen have secured land under the Homestead Act, and are preparing the same for cultivation.

"Four deaths occurred during the month.

## FREEDMEN'S SCHOOLS.

"So far as reported, schools throughout the State are very prosperous, and the number of pupils is increasing.

"At Canton, Rev. Mr. Drake, a citizen of the South, has interested himself in the welfare of the freedmen, having resigned his pastoral charge (in the Baptist Church) to labor among them. The freedmen have purchased a lot, and \$300 have been subscribed by the white citizens to assist in building a school-house. Mr. Drake has erected a comfortable house, paying the expenses from his private funds, except the portion contributed as above stated.

"This school is intended to be self-supporting.

"Many planters throughout the State would be glad to have schools established on their plantations, but are afraid to encourage it, lest they should offend some of their neighbors.

"The more intelligent citizens admit the necessity of educating the colored people, but few are willing to engage in the work of teaching them."

## ARKANSAS.

## SCHOOLS.

Schools in Arkansas are in a very prosperous condition; there is, however, a great lack of competent teachers. In many places where the most bitter opposition was manifested toward the establishment of schools, they are now receiving the sanction and moral support of the citizens.

## CHOLERA.

"The cholera has made its appearance at Helena; sixty (60) deaths from this disease have occurred. Measures have been adopted to stay its progress if possible. It is abating.

"The State has been very peaceful with few exceptions. Since the passage of what is known as the Military Bill, there has been a sudden cessation of outspoken hostility to the Government."

## TENNESSEE.

We make some extracts from the report of Brevet Gen. W. P. Carlin, Assistant Commissioner, dated April 11, 1867 :

## SCHOOLS.

"During the month, new schools have been opened at Alexandria, Jonesboro' and Jackson. The last named is partly sustained by Rev. L. Lea, M. E. Church, partly by tuition fees.

"At Fenton, the colored people have subscribed about \$800, and collected \$600, towards building a school house. The whites there have subscribed liberally to this object. Everywhere in the State, the colored people are fully alive to the importance of educating their children and themselves. In nearly every school is a class of adults, some middle aged, some older. The night schools are composed chiefly of adults, and such children as labor during the day. The number of pupils enrolled during the month was, 8,550. Average attendance 5,732.

"The freedmen have contributed \$1,815, to the support of schools, besides other subscriptions not reported.

"The pupils are constantly advancing in their studies. Their recitations in Arithmetic, Geography and Grammar, will compare favorably with those of any school in the United States. The teachers are reported to be of the first order, both in character and qualifications. The Bureau has given aid to every community and association that sought it, towards establishing schools.

## LAW AND JUSTICE.

"The State Government has adopted several measures, which have already exerted a happy influence on the welfare of the colored people, tending to elevate them, socially and morally. The first is the en-

franchise of colored men. This law has raised up practical friends for the freedmen, who were never known as their friends before. It has caused civil officials to give heed to the rights of colored people; Magistrates are more just to them. Outrages upon their persons are very rare, and in nearly every instance, the civil authorities have acted promptly and vigorously. But two murders were reported during the month, one committed by a boy fourteen years old, at Pulaski, the other at Rutherford Station, West Tennessee. The boy is in jail awaiting trial, and the supposed murderers of the other freedman are under bonds for trial. The writ of habeas corpus has been granted in five cases to colored persons, and in every case the decision of the Magistrate was in their favor. Colored men now participate freely in political meetings and conventions, sometimes with white men, sometimes without them. At a recent convention in Nashville, composed of prominent Southern white citizens, colored members were admitted and their views sought, and given in public speeches, on the political questions of the day.

"Such meetings are taking place all over the State. The steadiness of principle manifested by the colored men is quite remarkable; political aspirants, including the majority of present office-holders, display to a certain extent a courtesy (to freedmen) heretofore extended only to white men. 'Dick,' 'Tom,' 'Harry,' have become "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_" "gentlemen," &c. Thus the enfranchisement of the freedmen have greatly improved, instead of embittering, the feeling between the races.

#### FREE SCHOOLS.

"The second measure referred to, is a law establishing schools throughout the State, for both white and colored children, at public expense. This law will not go into effective operation for twelve or eighteen months.

*"But the city government of Nashville has passed an ordinance to establish two schools for colored children, to be supported by the city."*

"It is to be hoped that the heavy, though few grievances under which the freedmen still labor, may be removed at an early day. They are still forbidden to sit on juries, and to take a part in the administration of the laws that govern them; considering that they pay their taxes to support the Government, and have proved themselves worthy of all rights heretofore conferred on them; it cannot be doubted that the State will soon extend all the privileges of full citizenship to this deserving people.

#### KENTUCKY.

Brevet Brig. Gen. Sidney Burbank, Assistant Commissioner, reports:

#### MINOR'S SCHOOLS FOR FREED CHILDREN.

"Number of schools in operation during the month of March, seventy-four; sixty-five day and nine night schools. Whole number of scholars attending 4,643, an increase of one school, and 532 scholars over the preceding month.

"Nine of these schools with an attendance of 1,544 scholars, are furnished with teachers by the benevolent associations of the North, the rent being paid by the Bureau.

"Twenty-two of these schools with an attendance of 1,770 pupils, are held in colored churches, rent being paid by the Bureau and applied by the Trustees, toward the tuition of those colored children who are too poor to pay. The teachers of these schools are not supported by benevolent associations.

"The remaining forty-three schools, with attendance of 1,329 pupils, are supported entirely by the freedmen. The total expense for the support of these schools during the month, was \$2,060 75. The freedmen paying \$1,143 65, of this amount. The schools taught under the auspices of these benevolent associations, are the best common schools in the State. The Howard school at Lexington, with an attendance of over 600 scholars, and those on Centre and Magazine streets, in Louisville, are fully up to the standard of the best common schools in the free States."

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

##### NEW-YORK BRANCH.

Receipts by Edward F. Davison, Acting Treasurer, from April 30th, to May 29th, 1867.

##### FROM AGENTS.

Mr. Brett, May 14th, \$31 00.

Rev. W. R. Long, Utica, April 3d, \$150 00; April 12th, 155 01; May 14th, 348 85.

Rev. E. Colton, May, 17th, \$108 34; May, 29th, 89 80.

##### FROM AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

Whitney's Point, \$12 00; Newfield, 33 61; Speedsville, 12 00; Peruville, 10 00; West Dryden, 10 00; Woodville, 124 61; Lockport, 125 00; Schenectady, 125 00; Rockland Institute, Nyack, 75 00; Abbey, 16 00; Goshen, 125 00; Albany, 126 45; West Walworth, 25 00; Canandaigua, 60 00; Farmington, 15 00; Gorham, 46 33; Oneonta, 125 00; North Shore, 170 20; Canandaigua, 5 00; Newburgh, 25 00; Newark, N. J., 100 00; Canandaigua, 30 40; Penn Yan, 271 95; Lansingburgh, 62 10; Norwich, N. Y. 125 00; Orangeport, 8 00; Newburyport, 100 00; Oneida, 119 30; Greenwich, 4 00.

##### MISCELLANEOUS.

Sale of Hoes and Spades, \$677 13; Dea. J. Hoyt, for journal, 1 00; Miss A. L. Hitchcock, 42 00; Black Creek, by Mrs. Lacy, 3 00; Mrs. Richard Walsh, for journal 2 00; Proceeds of M'dze, 215 44; A friend, N. Y. City, 10 00; Luther M. Trusel, New London, N. H., 10 00; John Jay, Esq., N. Y., 200 00.

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